

I grew up with the medium of television, and with it the wise decision by lawmakers to make this industry accountable to their usage of the people's airwaves.

With the weakening of these laws beginning under Reagan, we now see corporate opportunists who are now blatantly misusing the public airwaves in a fashion reminiscent of Mussolini's corporate brand of fascism in the 1930's.

As one with a degree in journalism and a keen interest and experience in studying this era, I do not make this statement lightly nor without reason.

My love of our Democracy prompts this missive, and I find the policies of this administration concerning media to be reprehensible and a grave danger to the constitutional guarantee of a free press, fairness in reporting, journalistic ethics and the essential checks and balances we depend on as a foil to those who would abuse power.

The "Fourth Estate" has now been co-opted by media magnates in collusion with both the present administration and multinational corporations.

This is fascism, and cannot be allowed in a free America. Here is an example:

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive and BALANCED news about issues that matter.

Those who would spew unsubstantiated charges against a candidate for our nation's top leadership on public airwaves unchallenged, and without examination nor confirmation are but propagandists, and that agency in charge of the license for the station that allows this is complicit in this crime against Democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Sinclair has shown they are not responsible to own a broadcast license with this type of behavior. Those broadcasters who would so blatantly violate all the tenants of journalistic ethics and basic honesty by passing this Gobbels-like hatchet piece off as "NEWS" is truly revolting, and clearly illegal under the letter and spirit of FCC regulations, not to mention campaign laws.

It is time for you to do your job and protect the American public from these abuses. Your failure to do so will indicate to the world that rather than an impartial regulatory agency, you are instead partisan operatives with an agenda other than that of the essential needs of the American people and their Democracy that demands protection from despots.  
Thank you